

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

### **1.) Claim Amendments**

The Applicants have amended claims 15, 20 and 21; claims 1-14, 16-19 and 24-32 have been canceled; and claims 33-34 have been added. Accordingly, claims 15, 20-23 and 33-34 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

### **2.) Allowable Subject Matter**

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the conditional allowance of claims 15 and 20-23. New claims 33 and 34 are computer program and apparatus claims that are identically based on the conditionally allowed method claim 15. No new matter has been added.

### **3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 24-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiedemann, Jr., et al. (US 2003/0161285) in view of Yafuso (US 2003/0103470). The Applicants have canceled claims 1-3 and 24-32.

The Examiner rejected claims 4-5, 9, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiedemann in view of Yafuso and further in view of Malladi, et al. (US 2003/0210668). The Applicants have canceled claims 4-5, 9, 17 and 19.

The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiedemann in view of Yafuso and further in view of Hwang, et al. (US 2002/0115464). The Applicants have canceled claims 6 and 10.

The Examiner rejected claims 7-8, 11-14, 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiedemann in view of Yafuso, and further in view of Leslie (US 5,115,514). The Applicants have canceled claims 7-8, 11-14, 16 and 18.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 15, 20-23 and 33-34.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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